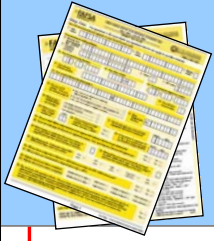


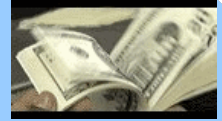
Financial Aid Workshop for 2009-2010



CASH FOR COLLEGE

Presented by

Andi Schreibman
Financial Aid Officer,
Las Positas College



With the assistance of Todd Steffan, Financial Aid Specialist

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Agenda

2



- Philosophy of Financial Aid
- Important terms
- Calculating Eligibility
- Types of Financial Aid
- Application Process
- Awarding and Packaging
- Special Circumstances
- Top strategies to minimize Expected Family Contribution
- Guidance for the FAFSA form

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Need Analysis / Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

12

- **Need Analysis** is the consistent federal formula applied to the data in a FAFSA application used in determining a family's EFC
- **EFC** is the measure of a family's financial strength
- The EFC is the amount the government expects a family should be able to contribute to pay for college expenses

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'Cost of Attendance' (COA) or Student Budget

Cost of Attendance includes most everything related to *average* college expenses at a specific college for one academic year. Also known as the "Student Budget."



- Tuition and/or fees
- Room and board
- Books and supplies
- Transportation
- Misc. personal expenses

5

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Comparing various College and University COAs (2008-2009)

	LPC	CSUEB	UCB	Stanford
Tuition & fees only	\$586	\$3345	\$8384	*\$34,800
Ttl COA <i>At home</i>	\$9316	\$12,264	\$16,456	N/a
Ttl COA <i>Off campus</i>	\$15,292	\$18,753	\$21,328	*\$49,363

***Tuition FREE if family income under \$45,000!**

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Calculating Financial Aid Eligibility ¹⁶

► Basic Equation of Need

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Cost of Attendance (COA)} \\ &- \text{Expected Family Contribution (EFC)} \\ &= \text{Eligibility for Need-based Aid} \end{aligned}$$

Colleges determine and offer financial aid based on this equation. Some types of aid require financial need and some types do not.



Calculating Financial Aid Eligibility ¹⁵

► Eligibility Varies Based on Cost of Attendance



Private 4-year

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{COA } \$49,363 \\ &- \text{EFC } 1,000 \\ &= \text{Need } \$48,363 \end{aligned}$$



Public 4-year

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{COA } \$18,753 \\ &- \text{EFC } 1,000 \\ &= \text{Need } \$17,753 \end{aligned}$$

Public 2-year

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{COA } \$15,292 \\ &- \text{EFC } 1,000 \\ &= \text{Need } \$14,292 \end{aligned}$$

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Types of Financial Aid ⁹

► Categories

Gift Aid	Self-help Aid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants/Fee Waivers Scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work-study Loans



Financial aid is any money given, paid or loaned to help pay for education.

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Sources of Financial Aid ¹⁰

- Federal government
- State agency/government
- Colleges and universities
- Private agencies, organizations, businesses, corporations, foundations and parents' employers



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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT ¹¹

► Federal Pell Grant

- Entitlement
 - First source of aid
 - For extremely low income students
- Amount based on
 - Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
 - Enrollment status
- 2008-09 range = from \$890 to \$4,731

PELL

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Other Federal Grants- for very low income students ³⁰

Your college will determine which federal grants you qualify for. The FAFSA is the only application needed to apply for all.

See details in your handout and In 'Fund Your Future' booklet

FSEOG

ACG

SMART

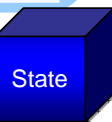
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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT

13

► Cal Grants (See Fund Your Future Workbook pages 15-18)

- 'Entitlement' program if students apply before March 2 of senior year
 - For 2-yr, 4-yr, public, private, and vocational
 - Pays FULL TUITION at a CSU or UC, @ up to \$9,700/year for private institution.
 - Renewable up to 4 years
 - Cal B recipients receive a \$1551 annual grant in addition to full tuition for 4 years



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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT

► Cal Grants A, B and C Qualifications

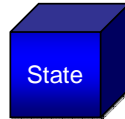
GPA MINIMUM:

Cal Grant B: 2.0 GPA

Cal Grant A: 3.0 GPA

INCOME AND ASSET LIMITS

see slide in your handout



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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT

Cal Grant Application Requirements

15

- **By March 2, 2009 complete and submit:**

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)



Cal Grant GPA Verification Form OR Release Form



Check with your high school or college counselor for more details on how to file your Verified GPA for Cal Grant consideration.

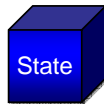
www.csac.ca.gov

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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT

California Chafee Grant

- The California Chafee Grant program provides up to \$5,000 annually to current and former foster youth for college or vocational training at any accredited college in the U.S based on available funding



- To apply, the foster youth must complete:

- 2009-2010 FAFSA
- California Chafee Grant Program Application

www.chafee.csac.ca.gov



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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT

Community College Fee Waivers

- 'Board of Governors' Fee Waiver Program (BOG)
 - Waives enrollment fees at all community colleges
 - File a FAFSA to qualify. Waiver is automatically awarded.



All students who have \$1 or more of financial need receive an automatic waiver of registration fees.

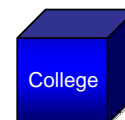
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Types of Financial Aid – GIFT

► College/Institutional Grants

All four year colleges/universities have additional institutional funds to award at their discretion. Amounts and criteria vary, FAFSA is required; may pay for full tuition.

- CSU State University Grant (SUG)
 - Amounts vary, FAFSA is required
 - www.calstate.edu or csumentor.edu
- UC Grant
 - Amounts and application process vary
 - www.universityofcalifornia.edu
- Independent College Grants
 - Amounts and application process vary
 - www.aiccu.edu or www.aiccumentor.org



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18

Types of Financial Aid – GIFT Scholarships

Scholarships are awards provided by the private and public sector

- institutions
- organizations
- corporations
- clubs
- foundations
- individuals



Types of Financial Aid – GIFT Institutional and Outside Scholarships

- Provider decides on
 - Awarding criteria
 - Application deadline
 - Forms or applications
- Awards may be
 - Merit-based
 - Need-based or NOT Need-based
 - Combination of the two, or neither
 - Based on any other criteria determined by donor



Types of Financial Aid – GIFT Where to find scholarships

- Start with your High School Career Center
- Local section of local Newspaper
- Organizations your family is connected to, including parent's workplace, church, unions, clubs, etc.
- Check your intended colleges' financial aid/scholarship website for opportunities
- *IN ALL CASES YOUR PERSONAL STATEMENT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR APPLICATION!*



Types of Financial Aid – GIFT Private FREE Scholarship Searches

- FinAid on the Web: www.finaid.org
- College Board: www.collegeboard.com
- FastWeb: www.fastweb.com
- Scholarship Resource Network Express: www.srnexpress.com
- GoCollege: The Collegiate Webservice: www.gocollege.com
- Wired Scholar: www.wiredscholar.com

Types of Financial Aid – GIFT Scholarship Search Rules of Thumb

23

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- **NEVER** spend money to apply for scholarships. Legitimate scholarships do not ever charge money!
- Never invest more than time or postage to find scholarships
- No-one can "guarantee" receipt of legitimate scholarships



Types of Financial Aid – SELF-HELP Federal Work-Study

24

- Campus-based aid
- Must be earned through work
 - Job may be on- or off-campus
- No annual maximum
 - funding levels vary at each institution
- Need-based

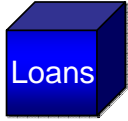


Types of Financial Aid – SELF-HELP
Federal Family Education Loan Program
and Federal Direct Loan Program

36

• Includes

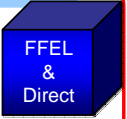
- Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan
Loan is in student's name;
need-based
government pays interest while in school
- Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan
Loan is in student's name;
no need required
STUDENT pays interest while in school



Types of Financial Aid – SELF-HELP
► Federal Stafford Loan

38

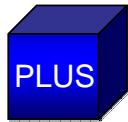
- College determines program
 - FFEL (lenders provide funds)
 - or Direct Loan (federal government provides funds)
- Annual and aggregate loan limits apply
- 6-month grace period
- 10 – 30 year repayment period
- Interest currently 6% sub ; 6.8% unsub
- Deferred while in college at least halftime



Types of Financial Aid – SELF-HELP
► Federal PLUS Loan Program

42

- Parent borrows money on behalf of their child
- based on credit record
- Fixed interest rate at 7.9% or 8.5% depending on the program and college
- Parents can defer payment until student graduates college.



Application Process
► Applying for Aid

7

- When applying to an institution, a student should ask the following
 - What forms does the institution require in addition to the FAFSA?
 - Does the college require the completion of an institutional application form or other forms?
 - What are the filing deadlines for each form?
 - What is the priority filing deadline for aid?

Application Process
► Applying for Aid

8

- All institutions require FAFSA
- Cal Grant GPA Verification Form
- Other applications or forms
 - Some institutions require CSS Financial Aid Profile
 - Institutional Scholarship and/or Financial Aid Application
 - 2008 federal tax returns (along with schedules and W-2s) or other income documentation MAY be required



Application Process
Student Aid Report (SAR)

- After the FAFSA is submitted and processed, the Department of Education will send a SAR to the student by email or mail. Review and make corrections if needed
- An electronic copy will be sent to each college or university listed by the student



Application Process What Happens Next?

31



-Students who complete FAFSA and Cal Grant GPA Verification Form receive California Aid Report (CAR) letting them know the status of their Cal Grant eligibility.

You may review your Cal Grant info at:
<https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov>

Awarding and Packaging... What Happens Next?

- Colleges match admission records with FAFSA data and determine aid eligibility
- Colleges notify students of additional forms or documentation that must be submitted in order to receive aid. BE SURE TO FOLLOW UP OR YOUR AID MAY BE DELAYED!
- Colleges mail or email notices of financial aid eligibility (Award Offers) to admitted students usually beginning March.

Financial Aid Award Letter

All Financial Aid Award letters include the following:

- Cost of Attendance (or Student Budget)
- Expected Family Contribution
- Aid Offered
 - grants
 - work-study
 - loans
 - scholarships

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY				
2007 - 2008 FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTIFICATION				
Section 1: STUDENT BUDGET for: Fall and Spring		Section 2: OTHER RESOURCES		
UC Core Housing - Year	\$28308			
UC Loan Fees	\$114			
Total Student Budget		\$28422	TOTAL OTHER RESOURCES	
Less Student Contribution	\$0			
Less Parent Contribution	\$0			
Financial Need	\$28422			
Section 3: FINANCIAL AID OFFERS				
	Fall Offer	Spring Offer	TOTAL OFFER	
FED DIR LOAN-SUB1 FL	\$1780.00		\$1780.00	
FED DIR LOAN-SUB1 SP		\$1750.00	\$1780.00	
WORK STUDY ELIGIBILITY	\$1307.00	\$1307.00	\$2614.00	
FED SEOG GRANT FALL	\$250.00		\$250.00	
FED SEOG GRANT SPRING		\$250.00	\$250.00	
FEDERAL PELL GRANT-FALL	\$2155.00		\$2155.00	
FEDERAL PELL GRANT-SPRG		\$2155.00	\$2155.00	
FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN FL	\$1000.00		\$1000.00	
FEDERAL PERKINS LOAN SP		\$1000.00	\$1000.00	
UNIVERSITY FEE GRT1 FL	\$218.00		\$218.00	
UNIVERSITY FEE GRT1 SP		\$218.00	\$218.00	
FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP FL			\$4645.50	
FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP SP			\$4645.50	
ESTIMATED CAL GRANT B	\$775.50	\$775.50	\$1551.00	
TOTAL AWARDS:			\$24202.00	

Comparing your college choices using Award letters

- Your bottom line for choosing colleges isn't the cost of attendance, but rather the *net actual cost to you and your family*.
- Once you subtract the gift aid (grants and scholarships) from your cost of attendance, **determine how much of the bill *you* will need to finance through self-help aid (loans and workstudy) or your own funds.** This is what you need to understand when determining affordability in making choices.
- See Award Package Comparison Worksheet at back of packet

Special Circumstances



- Contact the Financial Aid Office if there is:
 - Loss or reduction in parent or student income or assets in 2009 compared to 2008
 - Death or serious illness in family
 - Unusual medical or dental expenses not covered by insurance
 - Reduction in child support, social security benefits or other untaxed benefit in 2009
 - Financial responsibility for elderly grandparents
 - Any other unusual circumstances that affect a family's ability to contribute to higher education

Special Circumstances

36



- Adjustments to income or assets **may** be made on a case-by-case basis by the financial aid office where you are attending.
- These adjustments can reduce the reported income or assets that the FAFSA formula is based on and may result in increased eligibility for financial aid.
- Each college has its own petition process for special circumstances. In all cases, **file the FAFSA with the required information FIRST**, then file a petition. Documentation will always be required.
- **SEE WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO HANDOUT**

Top Strategies to minimize Expected Family Contribution

- Save money in the parent's name, not the child's name. Or use a savings vehicle that is treated like a parent asset, such as a 529 college savings plan, prepaid tuition plan or Coverdell Education Savings Account.
- Pay off consumer debt, such as credit card and auto loan balances.
- Spend down the student's assets and income first.
- Accelerate necessary expenses, to reduce available cash. For example, if you need a new car or computer, buy it before you file the FAFSA.
- Maximize contributions to your retirement fund.

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Top Strategies to minimize Expected Family Contribution

- Ask grandparents to wait until the grandchild graduates before giving them money to help with their education.
- Trust funds are generally ineffective at sheltering money from the need analysis process and can backfire on you.
- A section 529 college savings plan owned by a parent has minimal impact on financial aid, and one owned by a grandparent has no impact on financial aid.
- Choose the date to submit the FAFSA carefully, as assets and marital status are specified as of the application date.

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Top Strategies to minimize Expected Family Contribution

- If you feel that your family's financial circumstances are unusual, make an appointment with the financial aid administrator at your school to review your case. Sometimes the school will be able to adjust your financial aid package to compensate using a process known as Professional Judgment.
- Do not withdraw money from your retirement fund to pay for school, as distributions count as taxable income, reducing next year's financial aid eligibility. If you must use money from your retirement funds, borrow the money from the retirement fund instead of getting a distribution.

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Summary of the Financial Aid Process

- Submit all required forms, including the FAFSA, by each college's published deadlines (but no later than March 2)
- By March 2, submit a Cal Grant GPA Verification Form (or Release Form)
- **Keep a copy of all forms submitted**
- Review the Student Aid Report (SAR) and California Aid Report (CAR) for accuracy



40

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Summary of the Financial Aid Process

- Watch for financial aid award notifications from colleges to which the student has been admitted
- Be sure to apply for financial aid this year and **every year** as soon as possible after January 1 to receive the best financial aid award possible
- Research scholarships and continue to apply through your college years
- **Follow up and ASK QUESTIONS!**



41

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Other useful resources

Federal Financial Aid Info Center: 1-800-433-3243

Federal Aid information page: www.studentaid.ed.gov

Education Tax Credits/Hope Scholarships
www.ed.gov/studentaid

California Student Aid Commission: www.csac.ca.gov
View your personal Cal Grant status: <https://mygrantinfo.csac.ca.gov>

Official Financial Aid Information Page: www.finaid.org/

Veterans Educational Benefits: www.va.gov/va.htm

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Additional questions?

Contact the Las Positas College
Financial Aid Office with your
questions at:

lpcfinaid@laspositascollege.edu

(925) 424-1580

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Want help filing your FAFSA?

*For personal assistance completing/filing
your FAFSA application*

*attend the CASH FOR COLLEGE event at
Las Positas College*

Sunday, February 22, 2009

Noon – 3pm

Building 2400 Computer Lab

Bring all pertinent student/parent 2008
income info, current asset balances, etc.

*Assistance provided in English, Spanish,
Portuguese, Mandarin, Urdu, Hindi*

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